

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     PRETOR 03610 211839Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----021326 211842Z /40

O 211818Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8148

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3610

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF RH PINT

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH IAN SMITH

REF: A) PRETORIA 3489, B) PETTERSON/BOWDLER TELECON JULY 21

1. I SPOKE TO BOTHA ABOUT HIS TRIP TO SALISBURY YESTERDAY  
WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

1. HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN THE VISIT. SMITH DID  
NOT WANT HIM TO COME UNTIL SUNDAY, JULY 24, BUT HE INSISTED  
ON GOING YESTERDAY. HE WAS FEARFUL THAT HAD HE FOLLOWED  
SMITH'S WISHES, SMITH MIGHT HAVE MADE STATEMENTS THAT  
COULD NOT BE UNDONE.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TWO-FOLD:  
(A) TO GET SMITH TO ADHERE TO HIS COMMITMENT  
ON MAJORITY RULE; AND  
(B) TO MAKE SURE THAT SMITH CONTINUES TO  
NEGOTIATE ON A SETTLEMENT.

2. THE SAG WANTED REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT ON  
BOTH POINTS BEFORE THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN STARTS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     PRETOR 03610 211839Z

WHEN SMITH MIGHT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS RENEGING  
ON OBLIGATIONS OR FORECLOSING OPTIONS.

3. BEFORE LEAVING SALISBURY, BOTHA CHECKED WITH  
SMITH WHAT HE PROPOSED TO SAY TO PRESS ON HIS RETURN  
TO PRETORIA (SEE REFTEL). SMITH WANTED TO ADD  
"RESPONSIBLE" TO MAJORITY RULE. BOTHA REFUSED AND TOLD

HIM NOT TO BACKTRACK ON STANCE HE HAD TAKEN SINCE KISSINGER INITIATIVE. SMITH DID NOT WANT TO INCLUDE BLACKS IN STATEMENT ON RETENTION OF CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT. BOTHA INSISTED THAT IT APPLY TO BOTH.

4. BOTHA IS CONVINCED NOW THAT SMITH HAD TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT AND CALL ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH PRIOR TO VISIT HE DID NOT THINK SO. IN FACT HE HAD OPPOSED IT. HE REALIZES NOW THAT SAG HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE CHALLENGE OF THE RHODESIAN FRONT DEFECTORS.

5. THE THREAT OF MORE DEFECTIONS WAS REAL. GROWTH OF THE RHODESIAN ACTION PARTY WOULD HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SMITH TO GOVERN AND BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO NEUTRALIZE RIGHT WING DEFECTORS. ELECTIONS PROVIDED THE BEST VEHICLE.

6. SMITH ASKED FOR SAG HELP IN WINNING THE ELECTIONS. BOTHA USED THIS TO OBTAIN THE COMMITMENTS HE WANTED ON MAJORITY RULE AND CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS. HIS TRIP TO SALISBURY SHOWED ELECTORATE THAT SMITH STILL HAS SAG SUPPORT. BOTHA SAID THAT AS THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES WE CAN EXPECT SMITH TO USE THE SAG CONNECTION INCREASINGLY TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT HE AND ONLY HE HAS SAG SUPPORT. SMITH ASKED BOTHA TO VISIT SALISBURY REGULARLY AND HE PROMISED TO DO SO. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03     PRETOR 03610 211839Z

7. SMITH IS UNDER GREAT STRESS. HE NEEDS TO REGROUP HIS FORCES. HE MUST RE-EXAMINE RHODESIAN FRONT CADRE TO WEED OUT DOUBTFULS AND COME UP WITH STRONG CANDIDATES TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION. BOTHA IS CONFIDENT THAT SMITH CAN WIN BIG. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT HE DO SO IF RHODESIA IS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT SMITH'S INTENTIONS ON AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND HOW THESE MIGHT BE LINKED TO THE ELECTIONS, BOTHA AFFIRMED THAT ELECTIONS ARE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. SMITH MUST GET THE SEATS OF THE DEFECTORS BACK AND RE-ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS THE UNCHALLENGED LEADER OF THE WHITES. HE SAW NO CONNECTION WITH INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. BOWDLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PRETOR03610  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770259-1197  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PRETORIA  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770733/aaaabcin.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 44ddea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 PRETORIA 3489  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1790170  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH IAN SMITH  
**TAGS:** PINT, SF, RH, (BOTH, PIK), (SMITH, IAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/44ddea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009